

As my colleagues and her peers—a group of Senators' personal secretaries who call themselves "senior babes"—can attest, the small area just outside a Senator's office often takes on the aspect of Grand Central Station at rush hour. Becky is the person who keeps it all together and all running smoothly. Through it all, and maybe because of it all, Becky displays a sense of humor and a way with people and with words that is legendary among many of the longtime staff and Senators. For someone in a position that is always demanding and often thankless, such an attitude is almost a requirement, and for me it has often served to make even the most tiring and demanding days and nights in the Senate bearable.

But, to me, the most fundamental aspect of Becky's personality is her unquestioning dedication. Whatever the circumstances, however late or early, on weekends or during vacations, if I am there, Becky is there; if I am under the gun, Becky is at my side. In short, in a field of endeavor where loyalty is an often-invoked but seldom-realized ideal, Becky personifies it. I am grateful for her service.

Mr. President, Eric Silagy has managed to pack more achievements into his brief career than any young man I know. He came to my office in 1987, fresh out of the University of Texas. In less than 2 years, he was chief scheduler for a Senate campaign that was as politically significant and hard fought as any in this century. His intelligence, good judgment, and youthful energy were important factors in our victory. For the next 4 years, he served as my legislative assistant while attending Georgetown University Law School, performing superbly in both capacities. Since 1994, he has been my administrative assistant and chief of staff. Thanks to his excellent organizational skills and his tact and good humor, it is an office that has been a productive workplace for a happy, hardworking, and extremely talented staff.

Just as important to me as his skill in running the office, however, has been his remarkable political and policy judgment, which I rely upon in making all the most crucial decisions that come before me; and his extraordinary effectiveness in getting the job done, no matter what the odds against it. Once an ideal legislative outcome has been selected, there is very little that can stand in the way of Eric's efforts to find a way to get there. While some divide the world into thinkers and doers, Eric Silagy manages to combine the best aspects of both. I want to express my gratitude for his diligence and devotion, and commend him for a job well done.

#### TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH: A PILOT'S LIFE THROUGH WAR AND PEACE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a

new book by a very brave Arkansan, James "Paladin" Fore. Written along with Larry Jacks, the book, "Tragedy and Triumph: A Pilot's Life Through War and Peace," serves as both a biography and a history. In a very unique way, Jim writes about the horrific events he witnessed through a flying career of more than 40 years. I want to commend Jim for writing this fascinating book which follows him from World War II through the conflict in Southeast Asia accumulating more than 37,000 flying hours.

As both a military and civilian pilot, Jim witnessed history in the making in over 100 countries. Mr. President, for a unique perspective on history through the eyes of a pilot, I highly recommend this book.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAN PAULK

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a very dear friend who has spent more time working for the U.S. Senate than I have. Jan Paulk has left this body to go on to bigger and better things, and Barbara and I want to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Mr. President, there is not a member of this Senate that Jan has not helped in one way or another, and I know all my colleagues join me in thanking Jan for her service.

As a fellow Arkansan from Russellville, Jan came to Washington in 1966 as a staff member to the late Senator J. William Fulbright. In 1971, she joined the Committee on Foreign Relations and served as a professional staff member for 10 years. However, most of my colleagues have become better acquainted with her in her most recent post.

Since 1982, Jan Paulk has served as the director of the Office of Interparliamentary Services, guiding and assisting each one of us in our official duties both here and abroad as Members of the U.S. Senate. Mr. President, the entire Senate will miss Jan Paulk, but I know she will move on to other challenges. Mr. President, Jan Paulk will face all of these new endeavors with the charm and grace that made her such a viable part of the United States Senate.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, truth be told, I don't know which I find more upsetting, the idea that the Government is losing a much-valued judicious voice, or the idea that I might inherit the dubious honor of having "the slowest drawl in the U.S. Senate." Either way, we'll miss HOWELL HEFLIN greatly.

However, I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the career of a man who has built a grand reputation as both advocate and judge.

Today, with every front page screaming about the public's disillusionment

with politicians, HOWELL HEFLIN stands as a model of integrity and dedication. In this era of increasing partisanship, he is a Senator who would not vote along party lines against his own constituency. In this atmosphere of media scrutiny, he is a judge who could not vote along the lines of popular opinion against his own conscience. He leaves a legacy of what it truly means to be in government: to represent the interests of the voters and to govern according to the law.

Whether he was working on court reforms, championing agriculture, advocating a balanced budget, or defending the space program, HOWELL has spent his 16 years in the Senate working hard for the people who put him there. He has been a tireless representative for the people of Alabama, and a tenacious defender of their interests. He is not a distant politician immersed in Washington business.

HOWELL HEFLIN's record of public service did not just benefit his home State. With his distinguished service on the Senate Ethics Committee, the country came to know a just, pragmatic, and compassionate judge of character. Though he didn't like to sit in judgment of his peers, he steered the country through some rough and divisive episodes and our Nation became familiar with the man we already knew as the Judge.

As you well know, Senator HEFLIN has a reputation for being an independent thinker, a master storyteller, and a strong proponent of issues he believes in from civil rights to family values.

One thing that never fails to amuse me is when critics attempt to malign HOWELL HEFLIN, the most scathing thing they can come up with is to call him a fence-straddler or indecisive. This is ironic because it is this quality that has made him such an exemplary Member of the Senate. He listens to all the arguments before making his decision, and when he does, it is fair and just. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out in a letter to George Washington: "Delay is preferable to error."

We will miss Senator HEFLIN and his charming wife Mike, but we couldn't expect to keep them in Washington forever. So I wish for them the best of luck in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BROWN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to the senior Senator from Colorado, HANK BROWN and to wish him all the best upon his retirement from this Chamber.

Mr. President, my association with Senator BROWN has been brief, by Senate standards, but it has been quite enjoyable. We have the shared goal of reducing this Nation's deficit, even if we have not agreed on each and every step of the way.

I am proud to say I worked with Senator BROWN on the Kerrey-Brown deficit reduction package 3 years ago, a proposal that would in and of itself